

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIMA 10006 280223Z  
ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 NEA-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10  
NSAE-00 PA-02 ICA-15 SP-02 /052 W  
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UNCLAS LIMA 10006

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y MRN 10006 VICE 0006

EO 12065: N/A  
TAGS: PINS, IR  
SUBJ: PRESS COMMENT ON EVENTS IN TEHRAN

1. SUMMARY: ALL PUBLICATIONS IN LIMA HAVE BEEN DEVOTING CONSIDERABLE SPACE TO INTERNATIONAL WIRE SERVICE COVERAGE OF EVENTS IN TEHRAN CONCERNING HOSTAGES AT US EMBASSY. HOWEVER, TO DATE THERE HAS BEEN NO EDITORIAL COMMENT ON THIS SUBJECT. LOCALLY-WRITTEN ARTICLES HAVE BEEN VERY FEW. NOV 19 EDITION OF SENSATIONALIST WEEKLY "OIGA", UNDER THE HEADING "CARTER AND KHOMEINI CONFRONT EACH OTHER", PROVIDED A LENGTHY SUMMARY OF RECENT EVENTS. THE ONLY COMMENTARY APPEARED IN NOV 16 EDITION OF LEADING DAILY "EL COMERCIO" IN NOV 19 EDITIONS OF WEEKLY MAGAZINES "GENTE" AND CARETAS", AND IN NOV 21 EDITION OF WEEKLY NEWSPAPER "EL TIEMPO", END SUMMARY.

2. UNDER TITLE OF "EXCHANGE OF VENGEANCE," NOV 19 EDITION OF "EL COMERCIO" CARRIED ARTICLE BY HUGO GUERRA (SPANISH SUPPLIED IN USINFO 9853) AS A "COUNTRY WHOSE PRIDE AS A SUPERPOWER IS WOUNDED." GUERRA OBSERVED THAT "THE CURRENT SITUATION IS AT AN IMPASSE, WHICH CAN BECOME AN INTERNATIONAL TRAGEDY AT ANY MOMENT." HE ALSO EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT "EVEN THOUGH THE SHAH WAS AN IRON  
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DICTATOR, THIS FACT DOES NOT JUSTIFY THE ACTIONS SUPPORTED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN." IN HIS JUDGMENT, "NOT TO ACCEPT THE RULES FOR LIVING TOGETHER IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IS TO OPEN THE DOOR TO THE REESTABLISHMENT OF THE LAW OF THE JUNGLE."

3. THE "GENTE" (POPULAR TABLOID) ARTICLE REFERRED TO THE

US POSITION IN THE CONTROVERSY AS "THE MOST JUST AND PERTINENT IN THIS MOMENT OF WORLD SUSPENSE." IT ALSO OBSERVED THAT KHOMEINI "IS SETTING A DANGEROUS PRECEDENT... LEGALIZING AN ACT OF TERRORISM, A RECOURSE WHICH IS REPUDIATED BY THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE WORD." "GENTE" CONCLUDED BY SAYING"... ONLY THE FANATICISM OF THE AYATOLLAH KHOMEINI AND HIS INSANE DEMAND FOR THE RETURN OF THE ILL SHAH, HOSPITALIZED IN THE US, DID NOT PERMIT HIM TO RECOGNIZE CLEARLY THE GRAVITY AND DANGERS WHICH THE SAID TERRORIST ACT POSES FOR HIS OWN GOVERNMENT."

4. "CARETAS" (LEADING WEEKLY NEWS MAGAZINE) CARRIED AN ARTICLE BY ALFREDO BARNECHEA (HOST OF POPULAR TV INTERVIEW PROGRAM "CONTRACTO DIRECTO".) BARNECHEA DESCRIBED KHOEMEINI AS "ONE OF THOSE FANATICS WHO WERE MARCHING IN PROCESSION IN 'THE SEVENTH SEAL' OF BERGMAN, LIKE A FOREST OF GHOSTS." ACCORDING TO BARNECHEA, KHOEMEINI "CHALLENGES THE ENTRIE LIBERAL EXPERIENCE AND TESTIFIES TO ITS EXTINCTION." IN HIS JUDGMENT, "THE REAPPEARANCE OF THESE RELIGIOUS LEADERS (KHOMEINI AND THE POPE), WHEN POLITICIANS ARE MEDIOCRE OR TECHNOCRATS, WOULD DEMONSTRATE PERHAPS THAT RELIGION IS NOT THE OPIATE OF THE PEOPLE, BUT RATHER A NATURAL WAY OF RESPONDING TO THE CONFUSION/CHAOS OF THE WORLD."

5. ACCION POPULAR (AP) LEADER AND FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER DR FERNANDO SCHWALB LOPEZ ALDANA ADDED HIS COMMENTS IN UNCLASSIFIED

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"THE VIOLATION OF AN EMBASSY", PUBLISHED NOV 21 IN RIGHTIST WEEKLY "EL TIEMPO". SCHWALB ASSERTED THAT "INTERNATIONAL PEACE IS THREATENED BY THE GRAVE CRISIS IN IRAN." IN ADDITION, HE CONTENTED THAT THESE EVENTS "CAN HAVE, NO MATTER WHAT THE OUTCOME, VERY ADVERSE REPERCUSSIONS FOR WORLD ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL STABILITY, ALREADY SERIOUSLY ENDANGERED BY THE INFLATION/RECESSION CRISIS WHICH PRINCIPALLY OPPRESSES THE POOR PEOPLES OF THE WORLD". HE CLOSED THE ARTICLE EXPRESSING THE HOPE THAT "THERE WILL BE NO BLOODBATH; BUT IF THE AYATOLLAH, SEPARATED AS HE IS FROM THE GREAT POWER CENTERS OF THE WORLD, PERSISTS IN CARRYING OUT HIS THREATS, IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO THINK THAT THE DAYS OF HIS GOVERNMENT ARE NUMBERED." SHLAUDEMAM

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## Message Attributes

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**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, HOSTAGES, EMBASSIES, ANTIAMERICAN FEELING  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014